

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An ejector comprising:

a nozzle for ejecting a fluid;

a needle disposed coaxial with said nozzle and having a tip end portion which faces said nozzle; and

needle moving means for causing said needle to advance and retreat axially, wherein a shape of said tip end portion of said needle is set such that an opening area of a gap between said tip end portion of said needle and said nozzle and amount of movement produced by said needle moving means satisfy a proportional relationship.

2. (Original) The ejector according to claim 1, wherein said tip end portion of said needle has a conical shape.

3. (Original) The ejector according to claim 1, wherein said tip end portion of said needle has a quadratic surface shape.

4. (Original) The ejector according to claim 1, wherein when an opening area of said nozzle in a state where said needle is not positioned in the position of said nozzle is set as A, a radius of said tip end portion of said needle in the position of said nozzle is set as X, an amount of movement produced by said needle moving means in a retreating direction from said nozzle is set as Z, and K is a constant, said tip end portion of said needle is shaped such that

$$X^2 = (A - KZ)/\pi$$

is established.

5. (Original) An ejector comprising:

a nozzle for ejecting a fluid;

a needle disposed coaxial with said nozzle and having a paraboloidal tip end portion which faces said nozzle; and

needle moving means for causing said needle to advance and retreat axially.

6. (Currently Amended) The ejector according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, wherein said needle moving means comprises:

a piston connected to a base end portion of said needle, said piston including a front surface and a rear surface to which a fluid is led; and
a biasing member for biasing said rear surface of said piston toward said tip end portion of said needle,

wherein said needle advances and retreats on the basis of a balance between a differential fluid pressure on said piston and a biasing force of said biasing member.

7. (Original) The ejector according to claim 6, wherein said fluid which is led to said rear surface of said piston is a fluid which is ejected through said nozzle or a fluid which is aspirated upon ejection through said nozzle.

8. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising the ejector according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~ claim 1, said ejector being incorporated into piping of said fuel cell system,

wherein said ejector combines a new fluid supplied to a fuel cell with a fluid discharged from said fuel cell and supplies the resulting mixture to said fuel cell.